

# Franklin County Council

March 11, 2014

## Special Meeting – Budget Reductions

Commissioners/Council Meeting Room 203

Council – Jeff Koch, Dean McQueen, Joe Sizemore, Daryl Kramer, Hollie Maxie, Becky Oglesby and Aaron Leffingwell.

Auditor – Stephen Brack

Open – The meeting was called to order by Council President, Jeff Koch and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Koch then asked for any comments from Council.

Becky Oglesby – Councilwoman Becky Oglesby stated that Franklin County has one of the lowest property tax rates in Indiana and that years ago Council froze the rate but didn't consider inflation. At this time Franklin County has some of the lowest paid office-holders and employees in the state. The state is currently short on revenue from income tax and sales tax which put added pressure on the local government. Mrs. Oglesby suggested the County follow the DLGF appeal process for raising taxes. She thinks that this is a very good case to win and would recommend Council get a lawyer from Indianapolis to assist with this process. Some additional comments were made from the audience.

Kramer/Leffingwell – presented a 3 page proposal. They stated that they have reviewed or examined the budget and possibly found money to nearly fill the gap. Their proposal involved revenue from 2013 and 2014 - \$436,000.00 and further cuts would follow: money granted to Andersonville Community Center, Franklin County Senior Center and 4-H would be decreased. The EDC would be disbanded. The proposal also found money by moving funds from other areas into County General.

Andrew Nauman – PHC – commented on the Health Care vs money spent. He made some suggestions regarding: Self-Funding, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Administration and Self Administration. He will be preparing additional information to the Commissioners.

- (1) A motion was made by Daryl Kramer for the council to send a letter to the Commissioners asking them to redirect edit tax funds currently going to the Franklin County EDC and redirect those funds to County General. The Council president will sign a reduction to EDC in the amount of \$52,050.00. The auditor will advertise such reductions for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Leffingwell. The motion passed with Daryl Kramer, Aaron Leffingwell, Joe Sizemore and Dean McQueen in favor and Hollie Maxie, Jeff Koch and Becky Oglesby opposed.
- (2) A motion was made by Daryl Kramer that the Auditor advertise reductions in the amount of \$404,860.00 from Council Cagit, Cemetery Cagit and Commissioners Cagit and the Council

president sign such reductions. This will need to be advertised by the Auditor for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Leffingwell. The motion was approved by Becky Oglesby, Aaron Leffingwell, Daryl Kramer, Joe Sizemore, Dean McQueen and Hollie Maxie and a no vote by Jeff Koch.

- (3) A motion was made by Daryl Kramer to have the Council President sign reduction cuts from the General Fund and additional's to Cagit and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Leffingwell. This is to be advertised by the Auditor and for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The motion passed with Aaron Leffingwell, Hollie Maxie, Dean McQueen, Joe Sizemore and Daryl Kramer in favor and Becky Oglesby and Jeff Koch voting against.
- (4) Daryl Kramer made a motion for the President of the Council to sign reductions and the auditor to make the decision on the \$308,677.97 which is the remaining expenses to move to CAGIT and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Leffingwell. Those in favor are: Daryl Kramer, Aaron Leffingwell, Joe Sizemore, Dean McQueen and opposed Jeff Koch, Hollie Maxie and Becky Oglesby.
- (5) A motion was made by Daryl Kramer to have the President of Council sign reductions that were recommended by the Department Heads and advertise for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Leffingwell. The motion passed with Daryl Kramer, Aaron Leffingwell, Joe Sizemore, Dean McQueen and Jeff Koch in favor and Becky Oglesby voted against. Hollie Maxie abstained.

Mel Wilhelm – appeared before Council and said he could not make any cuts in his budget as suggested by the 19% requested Budget cuts. Mr. Wilhelm stated that his office had already been cut going from \$95,000.00 in 2012 to \$84,000.00 in 2013 and that he also have up an investigator which most counties have. He stated that he has turned to user fees to help fund his office.

Commissioner Linkel suggested the county subtract at least \$200,000.00 from the 1.2 million which is in reserve to meet the needs of the county's health insurance fund and use it to save employee jobs. Mr. Kramer stated he wants proof from the broker that using this money would help plug the budget.

- (6) A motion was made by Daryl Kramer to have the president of Council sign reductions and the Auditor advertise for the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, to the General Fund of \$282,686 and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron Leffingwell. Those in favor were: Daryl Kramer, Dean McQueen and Aaron Leffingwell and, opposed Jeff Koch and Becky Oglesby and Hollie Maxie abstained.

The next item that was called for was the employee job reductions. Mr. Kramer called this the most controversial part of the plan. He called for 11 full-time jobs and 4 part-time jobs and stated that council will need to decide which ones will go. The suggested was: APC Office Secretary, Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Commissioners, Extension, Recorder Jail, Treasurer, and Transfer Station. Small animal control, Commissioners would lose a part-time and the probation officer would be reduced \$4,161.00.

(7) Councilwoman Oglesby made a motion to put job cuts aside for the time as the county would not be able to function without employees. The motion failed with Joe Sizemore, Daryl Kramer, Dean McQueen and Aaron Leffingwell voting against and Becky Oglesby, Hollie Maxie and Jeff Koch voting in favor.

There were plenty of mixed emotions from the audience regarding possible job cuts. One particular comment was phrased by Jeff Batcher asking why we would spend so much time on cutting positions as opposed to how to bring more money to the county. APC Director Larry Franzman objected to the loss of an employee (Secretary) in his office and stated "It's gotten to the point where it's time to do your jobs. It might take a year but you better get started today."

Other comments came from Commissioner Tom Linkel, Sheriff Murphy, stating his staff is already swamped and we have to do more with less; Angie Riffle from Extension, that the more she tries to defend her office, the more is taken away; Pam Beneker, Recorder gave the councilman documentation of nearly \$42,000.00 in fees that were collected by her office, which contributed to the budget; Assessor Sharon Halcomb stated the assessment fund has helped the county over the years. She also stated she would pay another employee from the Reassessment fund and turn in any additional money in hopes of saving of another position. Many other comments were made. Mr. Kramer and Mr. Leffingwell noted that the jobs cuts were necessary to in order that the county would not face bankruptcy.

Councilwoman Becky Oglesby also suggested that we do away with at least 3 holidays. Another comment was to eliminate Longevity which is paying the employees \$60.00 per year that they have been employed. In 2013 the cost was in excess of \$70,000.00.

(8) A motion was made by Becky Oglesby to table Longevity until the Budget hearings in August. This died to a lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Other suggested that the Council turnover their own pay or end the members of Council qualifying for Health Insurance.

(9) A motion was made by Aaron Leffingwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daryl Kramer to end the health insurance supplement which this year was \$25,335. The vote failed with Leffingwell and Kramer in favor and opposed was Joe Sizemore, Dean McQueen, Jeff Koch and Holly Maxie. Becky Oglesby abstained.

Aaron Leffingwell said he would reimburse the county every 2 weeks that he receives his pay. (8)

(10) A motion was made by Aaron Leffingwell to redo the motion of Daryl Kramer and advertise the reductions as written and make the cuts as of April 1, 2014, Daryl Kramer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion which failed as Daryl Kramer, Aaron Leffingwell and Dean McQueen voted in favor and Becky Oglesby, Joe Sizemore, Hollie Maxie and Jeff Koch voted against.

Comments were made from the Department Heads regarding the saving of positions in their offices. Those heard from are: Auditor, Stephen Brack saving a deputy, Treasurer, Veronica Voelker saving 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy, Assessor, Sharon Halcomb and Commissioner, Tom Linkel and Clerk, Karla Bauman saving a deputy.

(11) A motion was made by Becky Oglesby to advertise the remainder of the positions and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daryl Kramer. Those in favor are: Daryl Kramer, Joe Sizemore, Dean McQueen, Becky Oglesby and Aaron Leffingwell and opposed: Jeff Koch and Hollie Maxie.

(12) With no further business being discussed a motion to adjourn was made by Aaron Leffingwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Sizemore. Motion carried.

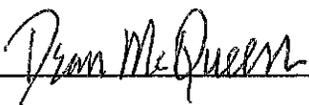
Others attending: John Estridge, Ruth Estridge, Chuck Thomas, Andrew Nauman, Ray Richardson, Roy Hall, Pam Beneker, Diane Turney, John Roberts, Carroll Lanning, Debbie Blank, Arthur DeFossett, Veronica Voelker, James Sprague, Davie Cook, Karla Bauman, Sharon Newkirk, Mel Wilhelm, Bill Schirmer, Jeff Batchler, Marlene Flaspohler, Kenneth Murphy, Carol Westerman, Monica Yane, Diana Galyen, Gary Marmouze, Curtis Ward, Angie Riffle, Larry Franzman, Mike Kohlsdorf, Wayne Monroe, Brian Bauman and Sharon Halcomb. The names are spelled correctly as per the sign in sheet.

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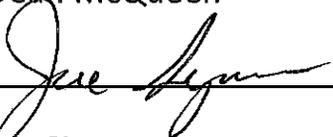
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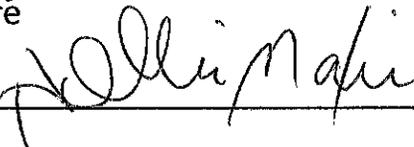
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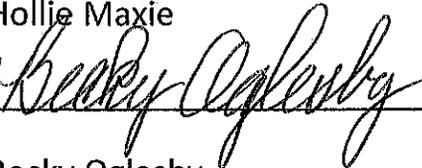
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Attest:

*Stephen Brack*

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Stephen Brack, Auditor – ~~March 11, 2014~~

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